

May 26, 2017

LVHNWEEKLY | HAZLETON

Your wrap-up of the week's news from LVHN.

An Update From LVH–Hazleton President John Fletcher



I want to thank you for your dedication and support of one another during this very difficult week. After we announced staffing adjustments that will affect about 10 colleagues, rumors surfaced that additional colleagues will be affected in the coming weeks unrelated to this latest announcement.

I want to assure you that this is not the

case. In fact, our cost reduction and revenue enhancement plan involves growing our volumes by implementing our inpatient and outpatient growth strategy. As you know, this strategy includes recruitment of physicians and advanced practice clinicians, modernizing and expanding the hospital facility, expanding our center city location at the Hazleton Shopping Center and constructing an ambulatory campus at the Health & Wellness Center at Hazleton.

HERE ARE UPDATES TO THESE PROJECTS:

Ambulatory campus project – Interviews have been conducted with project management firms who specialize in overseeing the planning, design and construction of a project from beginning to end. A firm will be selected in the near future and will work with our team to control the project's timeline, cost and quality.

Hospital modernization and expansion – Two steering committees have been established. One committee is focusing on the modernization of our hospital. A request for proposal (RFP) for

design services is being finalized for cosmetic improvements to the main hospital as well as renovations and expansion of the emergency department (ED). The second committee – an Innovation Committee – is focusing on our ambulatory strategy. The committee is already establishing parameters for the Health & Wellness Center campus expansion. In early June, the first meeting for center city expansion will take place.

Physician recruitment – I am pleased to announce we have successfully recruited three providers to join LVPG–Hazleton:

- Peter Spohn, MD, orthopedic surgeon, is currently going through the credentialing process. He is expected to join our team in July.
- Joshua Nochumson, MD, colon rectal and general surgeon, also is going through the credentialing process. He is expected to join us in October.
- Natia Potter, MD, endocrinologist, joined LVPG–Hazleton in April on a part-time basis. She also works at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre.

A medical staff development plan for fiscal year 2018 (now through June 30, 2018) also has been completed. It includes the recruitment of at least 10 providers to our community. Currently, we are recruiting in many specialties including general surgery, cardiology, urology, neurology, primary care, pediatrics, orthopedics, and obstetrics and gynecology.

As you can see, our future looks bright. I look forward to working with you as we move forward.

DON'T DELAY

The second quarter bundle of mandatory education in HealthStream is due no later than June 30. You can access Health Stream on the LVH–Hazleton intranet under the Training and Education/Annual Mandatory Education section.



Leadership Rounds Continue

LOCATION	DATE AND TIME	LEADER
7th floor	June 1 at 6 a.m.	Michele Konitzer, RN
6th floor	May 30 at 4:30 a.m.	Murray Swim
5th floor	June 1 at 6:30 a.m.	Melissa Curto
4th floor	June 1 at 6 a.m..	John Fletcher
3rd floor	June 1 at 2 p.m.	Anthony Valente, MD
ED	May 31 at 2 p.m.	Michael Golden, RN



Memorial Day Observance Honors Fallen, Evokes Pride

Long before Lawrence Riddles, MD, became Senior Medical Director at LVH–Schuylkill, he was supervising care in the midst of natural disasters and combat zones for the Department of Defense.

Riddles, who spent a month short of 35 years in the U.S. Air Force, served as bearer of the American flag at our fifth annual Memorial Day Observance. The ceremony was held live at LVH–Cedar Crest and simulcast to locations throughout the health network. Riddles joined colleagues who served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard in the flag-bearing ceremony during a rendition of The Star-Spangled Banner by the U.S. Air Force Brass in Blue. Five other veterans took part in the Laying of the Wreaths on the Memorial Table to honor the fallen.

“Memorial Day is unlike other days where we honor those who served our country, in that we’re paying tribute specifically to those who paid the ultimate price in defense of our country,” Riddles says. “It really gives one pause to stop and think about their sacrifice. That deep commitment of those who gave their lives is the reason for many of the blessings we’re able to enjoy today.”

Riddles’ own military commitment was rather amazing. In September 2005, he coordinated emergency care and evacuation plans during Hurricane Katrina as commander of the 375th Medical Group at Scott Air Force Base. He spent more than two weeks sleeping on granite floors at New Orleans International Airport while helping to create a makeshift hospital there in preparation for the evacuation of thousands of people displaced by the storm.

He became Command Surgeon for the United States Transportation Command in 2007 and used his expertise to direct similar patient movement efforts amid widespread rubble and chaos following earthquakes in Turkey (1999), Haiti (2010) and the Japan earthquake and tsunami (2011).

Riddles’ combat experience includes him being the youngest air transport hospital commander in an active combat zone during the

Gulf War. In the latter stages of his military career, he coordinated the safe transport of injured soldiers, sailors, airmen Marines and Coastguardsmen out of Iraq and Afghanistan to hospitals in Germany and the U.S.

Riddles looks back on all of it with deep humility. “It’s been an honor and a pleasure to have served under the U.S. flag in different parts of the world,” he says.

Here are the other colleagues who participated in LVHN’s Memorial Day Observance alongside Riddles.

FLAG BEARERS

American flag – Lawrence Riddles, MD, Air Force, Senior Medical Director, LVH–Schuylkill

Army – Kevin Kriesel, MD, LVPG Ear, Nose and Throat–17th Street

Marine Corps – Samuel Platia, Administrator, LVPG Pediatrics

Navy – Charles Worriow, MD, LVPG Emergency Medicine

Air Force – Madalyn Schaeffen, MD, LVPG Family Medicine–Cetronia Road

Coast Guard – Michael LaPearl, Operations Supervisor, Cetronia Emergency Management

LAYING OF THE WREATHS ON THE MEMORIAL TABLE

Army – William Thornton, LVH–Pocono Security

Marine Corps – Katie Blum, Collaborative Coordinator, AllSpire

Navy – Douglas McPeck, Senior Network and Communications Analyst

Air Force – Madhavi Capoccia, DO, LVPG Family Medicine–Cetronia Road

Coast Guard – Michael LaPearl, Operations Supervisor, Cetronia Emergency Management

Benediction – Enrique Amponsah, Battalion Chaplain, U.S. Army Reserves

A very special guest at the event was Dan Deysher, a 95-year-old U.S. Navy World War II veteran who sounded “Taps” during the observance. Deysher was a Musician First Class assigned to the battleship USS Pennsylvania out of Pearl Harbor. He served three of his six years in Navy in the Pacific Theatre on gun watch and as a stretcher bearer.

A resident of Hellertown, Deysher has sounded Taps at more than 3,700 military funerals over the last 33 years. He also sounded Taps at Pearl Harbor last Dec. 7 at the 75th anniversary

of the infamous attack. On Memorial Day, he will be among 51 buglers sounding Taps between Nisky Hill Cemetery and Memorial Cemetery in Bethlehem in honor of veterans laid to rest without a final tribute. Joining him in the bugling tribute will be his son, his granddaughter and his great granddaughter.

Special guests at the observance also included U.S. Air Force Major Timothy Page and Junior ROTC Cadets from Dieruff High School, who performed a ceremonial flag folding, handing off the flag to Chaplain Amponsah.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parkinson's Support Group

Wednesday, June 7 • 1 p.m.
Health & Wellness Fitness Center
Call **570-501-6717** to register or for more information.

What Every Person Should Know About Stroke

Wednesday, June 7 • 2 p.m.
Gunderson Center for Inpatient Rehabilitation
Learn about the signs, symptoms, treatment and rehabilitation available. To register or for more information, call **570-501-4600**.

Hands-only CPR Class

Learn lifesaving skills without mouth-to-mouth breaths.
Ages 13 and up
Wednesday, June 7 • 6:30 p.m.
Health & Wellness Fitness Center
Call **570-501-6600** to register or for more information.

Hazleton Rails to Trails Hike and Bike

Sponsored in part by LVHN
Bring your bike or take a hike. Come out and enjoy the great outdoors. Picnic lunch for participants.
Saturday, June 10 • 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Rails to Trails, Routes 93 and 424, Hazleton
Call **570-455-1509** for more information.
Registration is not required.

CONGRATULATIONS COLLEAGUES

Kudos to the following colleagues on their recent achievements.

MAURISSA LAUDEMAN, social services, graduated from Marywood University with a master's degree in social work.

KYLE SMITH, information systems, graduated from Bloomsburg University with a Bachelor of Science degree in technical leadership.

Your PRIDE is Showing

The following thank you was received from a satisfied patient:

"I recently spent three days in your hospital on the fourth floor. I want to thank the nurses and the other members of the staff who took care of me. To say they were great would be an understatement. They could not do enough to make me comfortable. The young ladies who were training were great; they seemed professional and very caring. They knew what they were doing and did it very well. All I can say is thank you to the staff on the fourth floor, and God bless you all."



Thanking Our EMS Partners

National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week is a time for us to pause and thank EMS members for their courage, skill and determination in delivering care in a pre-hospital setting. Our community depends on EMS providers to be there in the moments when the unthinkable happens. When the siren wails, they respond – no matter the time of day – armed with the guts, composure and training needed to care for those who need them most. They are the everyday heroes who unfailingly rise to the occasion.

During National EMS Week, we're proud to recognize the EMS squads who are our partners in the critical component of emergency medicine. We honor the dedication of those on the front line who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services. This week, Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) saluted these heroes in health care with a BBQ picnic lunch here at LVH-Hazleton.

Memorial Honors Colleague, Veteran and Innovator

Bruce Bobo Jr. was one of those people who may not be the easiest to get to know at first. Then once he warmed up to you, you were golden.

"There were many sides to Bruce depending on the situation," says Audio/Visual (AV) Media Services Expert Michael Cirocco, who worked with Bobo for most of the 14 years he spent at LVHN as a Subject Matter Expert. "Once you were included in his circle of friends, he became a very fun-loving, caring person. He went out of his way for people, and often helped people who didn't even know he was helping them."

Bobo, a U.S. Army veteran, passed away in October at age 53 after a battle with cancer. He left a wife, Donna, son, Gregory, daughter, Emily, and many friends who remember him warmly.

FOREVER REMEMBERED

On May 24, Bobo was honored with a memorial bench at the Veterans Healing Garden in the LVH-17th Street campus courtyard. He was recommended for the bench by LVHN President and Chief Executive Officer Brian Nester, DO, MBA, FACOEP, in recognition of his service to our country and contributions to our health network.

LIFELONG INNOVATOR

Bobo was born in Tennessee and spent his formative years in Florida. He ran his own computer business before taking a job at LVHN in 2002. Four years later, his name became familiar to colleagues when he designed and built the health network's original telehealth videoconferencing mobile cart, dubbing it the "George cart." Why that name?



"It's because George Washington was the first president and this was the first telehealth videoconferencing mobile cart," Cirocco says. "You had to know Bruce."

Bobo's creation remains invaluable to clinicians and patients alike. "It's amazing how much the cart impacts patient care," Cirocco says. Using the cart, for example, our maternal fetal medicine specialists can

communicate with a special needs mother immediately at a remote outpatient site. Plus, the cart also links non-English speaking patients with an interpreter so they can communicate with their caregiver quickly and effectively.

There are more than 50 carts throughout the health network. Since Bobo's passing, they've been renamed "Bruce carts" in his memory. "Bruce was such a visionary," Cirocco says. "He was always finding things and tinkering with them to see if there was a way it could improve patient care. He was such an asset to our health network."

IN SERVICE OF OTHERS

Bobo was very community oriented. He was deeply involved with emergency services and amateur radio clubs around the Lehigh Valley. He helped with emergency communications during Hurricane Andrew in 1992, 9/11 in 2001 and Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

"That's who he was – very conscious of people who needed help," Cirocco says. "Many people here didn't know Bruce would go above and beyond by buying DVDs and toys for kids in the hospital during Christmas, for example. That's because he kept quiet and didn't want everyone to know it was him doing it."